

REMARKS

Claims 1-49 and 58-76 remain pending in the above-referenced patent application, without amendment thereto. In as much as the pending claims have been allowed, and the current amendment raises no further substantive issues, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment after allowance under 37 C.F.R. 1.312, and consideration of the following remarks.

Examiner Teleconference

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone conference on March 17, 2005, during which the following issues were discussed.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended: to formally add new Figure 4A-2; to renumber original as-filed Figure 4A as Figure 4A-1; to describe new Figure 4A-2 in the section entitled "Brief Description of the Drawings"; and to amend various paragraphs of the section entitled "Detailed Description of Preferred Embodiments" as appropriate. No new matter has been added.

Applicants note that a draft Figure 4A-2 was previously submitted to the Office with previously-submitted Amendment B, together with an explanation thereof (*See* page 30 of Amendment B, submitted October 22, 2004). The Office has subsequently approved the proposed draft Figure 4A-2 (*See* page 1 of the Notice of Allowability).

Accordingly, these amendments to the specification raise no further substantive issues. Entry of these amendments is appropriate, and is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that the Office has considered all of the references listed on and enclosed with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 10, 2002.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants respectfully submit the following observations and comments with respect to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Notice of Allowability accompanying the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due dated January 26, 2005.

In particular, with respect to claim 58, the Notice of Allowability states (in relevant part) that:

... In claim 58 applicant has claimed a reaction system comprised of a reactor comprised of a surface defining a reaction cavity, an inlet port and an outlet port as well as a fluid distribution system *similar to the system of claim 60*. The fluid distribution system of claim 58 only require(s) the elements of the system needed for two or more mixing zones – not four. ...

See paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Notice of Allowability (emphasis added). Without taking a position on whether or not the fluid distribution system of claim 58 is "similar to" the fluid distribution system of claim 60, Applicants respectfully note that the invention defined by claim 58 differs from the invention defined by claim 60, as well as from the invention defined by claim 1 in one or more respects (beyond the noted difference in number of mixing zones).

Specifically, claim 58 is directed to a reaction system for effecting a chemical reaction. The reaction system comprises one or more reactors, each of one or more reactors comprising a surface defining a reaction cavity for carrying out a chemical reaction, an inlet port in fluid communication with the reaction cavity, optionally, an outlet port in fluid communication with the reaction cavity, and a fluid distribution system for selectively supplying a plurality of different feed compositions to the one or more reactors, each of the plurality of different feed compositions comprising at least two feed components in varying relative amounts. The fluid distribution system comprises a feed-composition subsystem that comprises two or more mixing zones, each of the two or more mixing zones being in selectable fluid communication with the one or more reactors, a first feed component source in fluid communication with each of the two or more mixing zones, a set of two or more first-feed-component flow restrictors, each of the two or more first-feed-component flow restrictors providing fluid communication between the first feed component source and one of the two or more mixing zones, each of the two or more first-

feed-component flow restrictors having a flow resistance that varies relative to other first-feed-component flow restrictors in the set, and a second feed component source in fluid communication with each of the two or more mixing zones. (See Amendment B filed October 22, 2004, emphasis added).

Formal Drawings

Applicants are submitting herewith a new set of Formal Drawings that include a formal version of the new Figure 4A-2, as well as of renumbered Figure 4A-1.

Applicants believe that no further fees are required in connection with this communication under 37 C.F.R. §1.312. If necessary, however, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any other necessary and required fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0496.

Respectfully submitted,



Date Submitted: Apr. 4, 2005

Paul A. Stone
Reg. No. 38,628

Symyx Technologies, Inc.
3100 Central Expressway
Santa Clara, CA 95051
(408) 773-4027